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NSC Briefing

11 Aug 1953

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NSC

II. The Soviet Position in Germany

(Outline)

- A. USSR intends to maintain its grip on East Germany through:
1. Popular concessions
 2. Repression of outstanding resistance
 3. Use of Soviet troops only when necessary
- B. Kremlin attempts to impede German alliance with the West by:
1. Propaganda
 2. Policy declarations for unity
- C. Soviet lack of maneuverability on Germany shown by its uncom-
promising position on:
1. Peace treaty conference
 2. Oder-Neisse boundary
 3. German neutrality
 4. Timing of free elections
- D. Soviet position in East German basically weak:
1. Popular contempt for Communist regime
 2. Necessity to use Soviet troops for maintenance of order
 3. Popular defiance of Communists on Berlin food program
 4. Intra-Communist opposition to Sovietization program
 5. No ready solution for East German economic difficulties
- E. Germany is a long range problem for the USSR:
1. USSR cannot allow East German elections
 2. Kremlin may forego its efforts against Adenauer election
 3. USSR may rather seek to exploit West European fears of German rearmament
 4. Appeal for settlement of all world issues a supplementary maneuver

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